

VZCZCXYZ0001  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAC #0611 2941823  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O R 211822Z OCT 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0112  
INFO MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE  
RHMCSUU/CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHMFIUU/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL

UNCLAS ASUNCION 000611

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS  
TO WHA/BSC MDASCHBACH

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [MASS](#) [MCAP](#) [PREL](#) [PA](#)  
SUBJECT: ELITE PARAGUAYAN MILITARY UNIT STANDS ON ITS OWN

REF: A. ASUNCION 562; B. STATE 97946

(SBU) The U.S. relinquished direct management of the newly created Joint Special Forces Battalion (BCFE) to the Paraguayan military October 14. U.S. Special Forces transferred over USD 1.3 million worth of weapons, equipment and ammunition to the BCFE October 12. The official ceremony tentatively set for November 4 will end U.S. involvement in BCFE training, which began in July 2007. As agreed, U.S. Special Forces Operational Detachment A (ODA) left Paraguay October 5 (reftel B). The BCFE Commander is Coronel Ramon Hernesto Benitez Amarilla.  
AYALDE